REMARKS

Claims 46-90 are pending in the application. Claims 1-45 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as described in paragraph 4 of the Office Action. Claims 1, 2, 4, 21, 22, 24-27, 34, 35, 38, 39 and 42 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as described in paragraph 6 of the Office Action. Claims 5-9, 11-20, 23, 28-33, 36, 37, 40, 44 and 45 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as described in paragraph 7 of the Office Action. Claims 3 and 41 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as described in paragraph 10 of the Office Action. Claims 10 and 43 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as described in paragraph 11 of the Office Action. Claims 46, 63, 74, 77, 80, 82, 84 and 90 are the only independent claims.

It is respectfully submitted that the rejections of claims 1-45 are moot, as the claims have been cancelled.

It is respectfully submitted that claims 46-90 have been drafted in compliance with 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

It is respectfully submitted that claims 46-90 are patentable over the prior art of record for the following reasons.

In accordance with the present invention, a first unit and a second unit are connected to one another through a transmission path, wherein a controller included in the first unit is operable to control a device in the second unit through the transmission path.

As described on page 2, line 21 through page 3, line 2 of the present application, a problem with conventional controlling systems deals with a change of state of a control device. In particular, when the display on an operating screen is to be changed due to internal state changes in the device, the device cannot report its change of state to the controller. This causes a mismatch in display screen information between the controller and the device. For this reason, the controller cannot correctly provide a user with device operation information.

Accordingly, it is an object of the present invention to provide a network control system in which a device can quickly report to a controller about a change of the device's internal state that causes a change of display on an operating screen to ensure the controller and the device can share the same state information.

Newly added independent claim 46 is drawn to a network control system and requires a controller that is operable to:

> "receive the screen display data and the identification information from said device through the transmission path, **to receive the updated screen display data when a state of said device is changed**, to instruct said display to display the operating screen using the screen display data, and **to update the operating screen upon receiving updated screen display data from said device**. (Emphasis Added)"

Newly added independent claim 63 is drawn to a network control system and requires that **"when a state of the device is changed,"** the device "transmits to said controller through the transmission path, **updated partial screen display data corresponding to partial screen display data in which the change of state of said device is to be reflected"** (Emphasis Added). Claim 63 further requires that the controller be operable to:

> **"receive the partial screen display data from said device through the transmission path when a state of said device is changed**, to receive the updated partial screen display data, to display the operating screen on said display using the partial screen display data, and to update the partial screen display data, **in which the change of state of said device is to be reflected**, with the updated partial screen display data. (Emphasis Added)"

Newly added independent claim 74 is drawn to a system and requires a device that is operable to:

> "transmit the screen display data and the identification information to said controller through the transmission path, **to transmit updated display data to said controller when a state of said device changes**, to receive the identification information of the screen display data and operation information indicative of an operation by a user, and to operate based on the received identification information and operation information. (Emphasis Added)"

Claim 77 is drawn to a system and requires a controller that is operable to:

> "receive screen display data indicative of an operating screen of said device and identification information for identifying the screen display data from said device through the transmission path, **to receive updated screen display data from said device when a state of said device changes**, to instruct said display to display the operating screen using the screen display data, to instruct said display to update the

operating screen on said display when updated display data is received, and, in response to an operation by a user to the operating screen, to control said device by transmitting operation information indicative of the operation and the identification information to said device through the transmission path."

Newly added independent claim 80 is drawn to a system and requires a device that is operable to:

"transmit the partial screen display data to said controller through the transmission path **when a state of said device changes**, is operable to transmit to said controller, through the transmission path, updated partial screen display data corresponding to partial screen display data in **which the change of state of said device is to be reflected**, is operable to receive operation information indicative of an operation by a user, and is operable to operate based on the received operation information. (Emphasis Added)"

Newly added independent claim 82 is drawn to system and requires a controller that is operable to:

"receive a plurality of partial screen display data indicative of an operating ·screen of said device through the transmission path from said device, is operable to receive updated partial screen display data corresponding to partial screen display data **in which a change of state of said device is to be reflected**, to display the operating screen on said display using the partial screen display data, to update the operating screen on said display using the updated partial screen display data, and in response to an operation by a user to the operating screen, to control said device by transmitting operation information indicative of the operation through the transmission path to said device. (Emphasis Added)"

Newly added independent claim 84 is drawn to a method and requires, *inter alia*, transmitting, **when a state of the device changes**, updated screen display data for updating an operation screen of the device from the device through the transmission path to the controller and updating the operating screen on the controller when the controller receives the updated screen display data (Emphasis Added).

Claim 90 is drawn to a method and requires, *inter alia*, **when a state of the device is changed**, transmitting updated partial screen display data corresponding to partial screen display data

in which the change of state of the device is to be reflected and updating the operating screen on the controller using the updated partial screen display data (Emphasis Added).

It is respectfully submitted that the prior art of record, either singly or in combination, fails to teach or suggest the above-identified limitations.

As described in the specification of the present application, and additionally discussed above, one aspect of the present invention is drawn to updating a controller based on a state of change of a device to ensure that the controller and the device can share the same state information. It is respectfully submitted that neither Yoshino, Takahashi, nor Tsutsumitake, either singly or in combination, teaches such a feature.

As anticipation under 35 U.S.C. § 102 requires that each and every element of the claim be disclosed in a prior art reference, *Akzo N.V. v. U.S. Int'l Trade Commission*, 808 F.2d 1471 (Fed. Cir. 1986), based on the foregoing, it is clear that Yoshino, Takahashi and Tsutsumitake do not anticipate claims 46, 63, 74, 77, 80, 82, 84 or 90.

Furthermore, Applicants submit that the dependent claims 47-62, 64-73, 75, 76, 78, 79, 81, 83 and 85-89 additionally are not anticipated by either one of Yoshino, Takahashi or Tsutsumitake.

In view of the above remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 46-90 are not anticipated by any of references Yoshino, Takahashi or Tsutsumitake within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. § 102.

Because none of the references teaches the required updating of a controller based on a state of change of a device as recited in the independent claims discussed above, it is respectfully submitted that a combination of the teachings of Yoshino, Takahashi and Tsutsumitake additionally fails to teach the required updating of a controller based on a state of change of a device as recited in the independent claims discussed above. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 46-90 would not have been obvious over a combination of the teachings of Yoshino, Takahashi and Tsutsumitake within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. § 103.

Having fully and completely responded to the Office Action, Applicants submit that all of the claims are now in condition for allowance, an indication of which is respectfully solicited.

If there are any outstanding issues that might be resolved by an interview or an Examiner's amendment, the Examiner is requested to call Applicants' attorney at the telephone number shown below.

Respectfully submitted,

Yoshifumi YANAGAWA et al.

By: _Thomas D Robbins_

Thomas D. Robbins
Registration No. 43,369
Attorney for Applicants

TDR/abm
Washington, D.C. 20006-1021
Telephone (202) 721-8200
Facsimile (202) 721-8250
June 26, 2003